



# DECAL Advisory Network Faith Based Advisory Committee May 31, 2012

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Commissioner



# Departmental Stakeholder Engagement Expectations

- A diverse group of stakeholders will be consulted before major changes occur in regulation, policy, or agency practice
  - Providers
  - Consumers
  - Advocacy organizations
  - Provider organizations

# DECAL Advisory Network

- Launched January 2012
- Made up of 12 committees
- Engaged over 100 Georgia citizens interested in early childhood education and care
- Fosters improved communication with the community

# Advisory Network: Goals and Objectives

- Provide targeted stakeholders an opportunity to speak directly with me on a regular basis
- Inform the department of local issues with DECAL programs
- Identify and discuss the impact of statewide trends
- Provide feedback on proposed program and rule changes

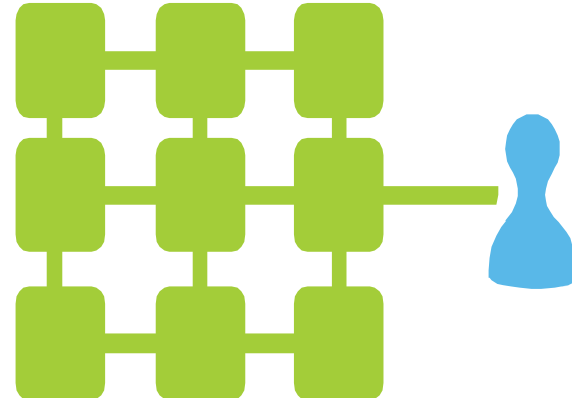
# Meeting Information

- Two meetings per year and as needed
- Held via conference calls and webinars
- Subcommittees will be formed to address specific issues facing DECAL
- Term: One year

# DECAL Advisory Committees

## Georgia's Pre-K Program

- Superintendents
- Directors/Principals (Public)
- Directors/Owners (Private)
- Teachers
- Parents



## Child Care Services

- Directors/Owners (Child Care Center, Family/Group Day Care Home)

## Quality Initiatives

- Quality Rated
- Infant/Toddler Network

## Nutrition Services

## Philanthropy

## Faith Based Programs

## Business

# Child Care Services: Faith Based Exemptions

- Effective January 30, 2012, Exemption Rules were revised.
- New Requirements are:
  - Submit and maintain a valid and current e-mail address
  - Post copy of exemption approval letter and notice that program is not licensed
  - Provide notice to parents/guardians of enrolled children if program does not carry liability insurance
  - Signature of parent(s) or guardian(s) on a form indicating understanding that program is not licensed

# Child Care Services: Faith Based Exemptions

- New requirements (continued)
  - Maintain attendance records for all children
  - Maintain parental acknowledgement forms and attendance records on-site for enrolled children for one year after a child is no longer attending
  - Comply with zoning, certificate of occupancy, fire inspection, health department requirements
  - On the new Exemption Application, notarize the signature(s) and include a sworn statement that the information provided is truthful and accurate
  - Submit a new exemption application if there are material changes in the operation of the program, such as a change of location, days and/or hours



# Georgia Infant Toddler Network

## A Call to Action

- Studies of child care quality were conducted independent of Bright from the Start by FPG Child Development Institute at UNC – Chapel Hill.
- Findings from the studies indicate WHY Georgia needs a TQRIS:
  - Over 3/4 of family day care homes in Georgia were scored as "low quality."
  - Over 2/3 of infant/toddler care classrooms were scored as "low quality."
  - Over 1/3 of preschool (non Georgia Pre-K) classrooms were scored as "low quality."

# DECAL Quality Initiatives

- Quality Rated
  - Georgia's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS)
- Infant Toddler Network

# What is Quality Rated?

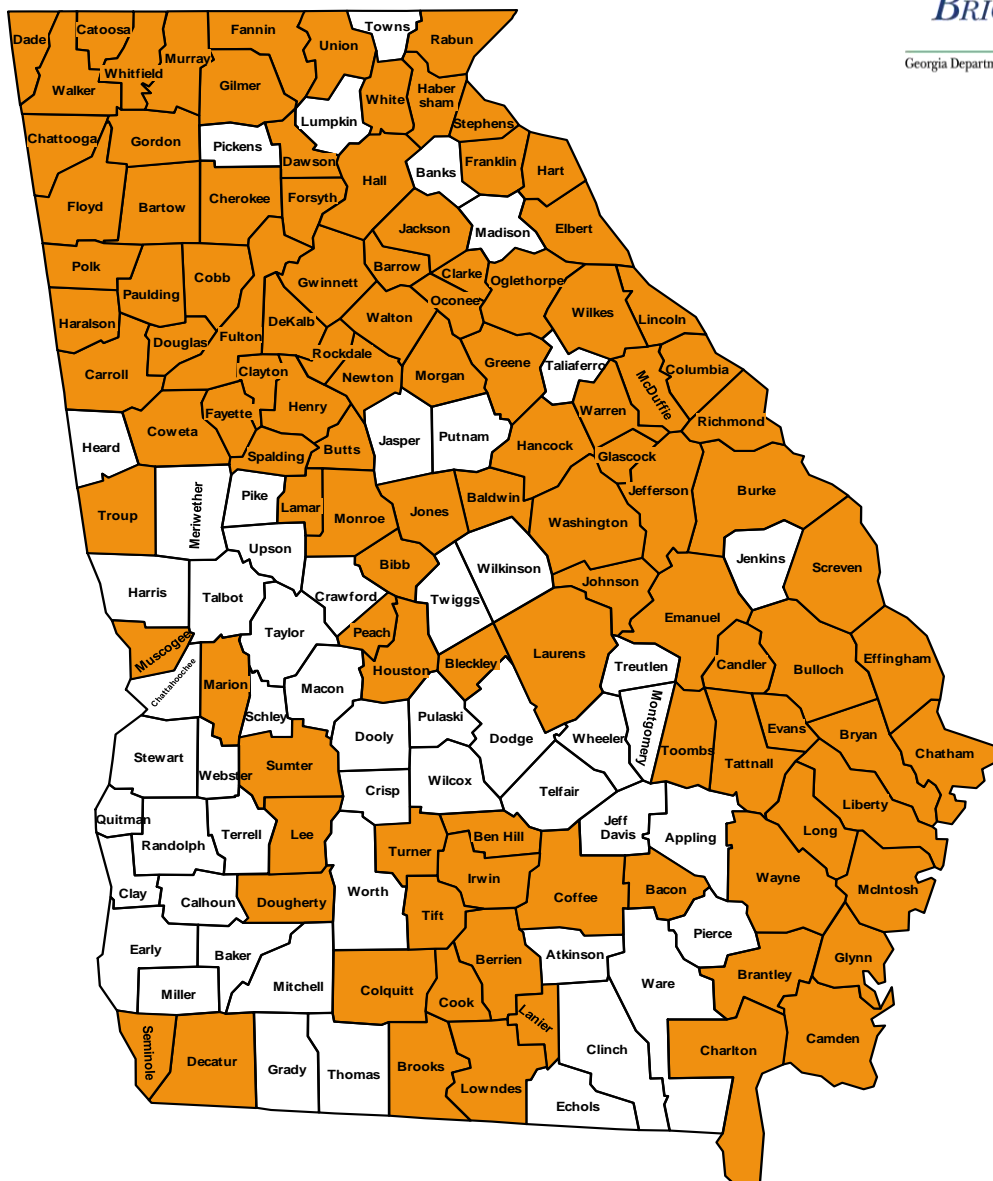
- Systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education (ECE) programs
- Program Standards

<b>Ratio and Group Size Requirements</b>	<b>Staff Qualifications</b>	<b>Child Health, Nutrition, and Physical Activity</b>	<b>Family Partnerships</b>	<b>Intentional Teaching Practices</b>  <b>LANGUAGE AND LITERACY CRITERIA</b>
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# Benefits of a Tiered Quality Rated and Improvement System (TQRIS)

- Improve the quality of early care and education programs through the alignment and coordination of system-wide initiatives.
- Ratings that reflect quality indicators that enhance children's development and promote school readiness.
- Increase quality of early care and education services.
- Increase parents' understanding and demand for higher quality early care and education.
- Increase professional development opportunities for early care and education practitioners and providers

# Counties with Quality Rated Participants



# GA's Infant and Toddler Network

- Technical Assistance
- GA/SC Website
  - <http://gainfanttoddlernetwork.com/>
- Professional Development
  - 15 Infant Toddler Teacher Conferences and 3 Director Conferences this year
  - Over 1,000 teachers participated
    - Series 1 – Responsive Teaching Practices
    - Series 2 – Intentional Teaching Practices
    - Series 3 – Language and Literacy Development



# Infant Toddler Network Activities (continued)

- Infant and Toddler Teacher Mentor Initiative
- Infant Toddler Network Website - NEW IN 2012
- Network Meetings
- Support to colleges and universities in integrating birth to three curriculum

# Nutrition Services

## Summer Food Service Program

- The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), administered by DECAL
  - Serves school age children eligible for free and reduced price meals while in school.
- Last year, DECAL had over 100 Sponsors and over 1600 Feeding Sites throughout the state.
- This year, we anticipate additional "OPEN SITES", where school age children can receive free meals.
- For more information on SFSP meals being served in your area at "Open Feeding Sites", for all school age children, visit the DECAL website at:
  - <http://www.dec.al.ga.gov/Nutrition/Search.aspx> or call 855-550-SFSP(7377)



# Questions & Comments



# Q and A

## Advisory Committee Feedback

- What can we do to assist you?
- What are you hearing in the community regarding DECAL Programs?
- What recommendations or feedback can you provide?

# DECAL Faith Based Coordinator

- If you have questions or need additional information, you may contact
- Kathleen Jayson, Regional Child Care Director  
E-mail: [kathleen.jayson@decals.ga.gov](mailto:kathleen.jayson@decals.ga.gov)  
Phone: 404-657-5582



# Contact Information

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